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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/846,512	05/01/2001	Rachel Meyers	10448-046002 / MPI2000-18	5523

7590 05/20/2002

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EXAMINER

DAVIS, NATALIE A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1642

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/846,512

Applicant(s)

MEYERS ET AL.

Examiner

Natalie A. Davis

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 19 and 54-62 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19 and 54-62 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 5-1-01 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's election without traverse of Group VI, claims 19-20 in Paper No. 8 is acknowledged. Claims 1-18 and 20-53 are cancelled, claim 12 is amended and claims 54-62 are new.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL. As a result, claims 19 and 54-62 are pending and under examination.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement in paper numbers 4 and 7 have been considered. A signed copy is attached hereto.

Drawings

The drawings have been considered and are not accepted (see attached form PTO 948).

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the specification (p. 2-3 and 10) makes reference to an ATCC Accession Number that is not provided. Applicant is advised to review the entire specification for similar errors. Correction is required.
2. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.
3. The use of the trademark Taqman has been noted in this application (p. 13-14 and 119). It should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

4. The disclosure is objected to because it contains an embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code (p. 14 and 17). Applicant is required to delete the embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. See MPEP § 608.01.

5. This application filed under former 37 CFR 1.62 lacks the necessary reference to the

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prior application. A statement reading "This is a continuation in part of Application No. 09/633300, filed 8 August 200." should be entered following the title of the invention or as the first sentence of the specification. Also, the current status of the parent nonprovisional application(s) should be included.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claim 58 recites the limitation "14094" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

8. Claim 58 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. See MPEP § 2172.01. It is not clear what steps are needed for a 14094-mediated proteolysis assay and how determining whether a test compound binds to SEQ ID NO: 12 is indicative of said assay.

9. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

10. Claims 19 and 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

11. Factors to be considered in determining whether undue experimentation is required, are summarized in *Ex parte* Forman, 230 USPQ 546 (BPAI 1986). They include the nature of the invention, the state of the prior art, the relative skill of those in the art, the amount of direction or guidance disclosed in the specification, the presence or absence of working examples, the

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predictability or unpredictability of the art, the breadth of the claims, and the quantity of experimentation which would be required in order to practice the invention as claimed.

12. Claim 61 recites using a test compound, which is a member of a biological library in the method of claim 19. The specification states that the test compounds may be obtained using numerous approaches in combinatorial library methods known in the art including biological libraries. This includes a whole universe of libraries and one cannot extrapolate the teachings of the specification to the breadth of the claims because the claims are broadly drawn to any biological library with or without the biological properties representative of what is claimed, and applicant has not enabled all of these types of modified libraries because it has not been shown that they are capable of functioning as that which is being disclosed. Reasonable correlation must exist between the breadth of the claims and the enablement set forth, and it cannot be predicted from the disclosure as to which biological libraries should be library should be used to select the test compound that is to be used in the method of claim 19. Therefore, in view of the lack of predictability of the prior art, lack of working examples, the breadth of the claims, and insufficient guidance as indicated above, one of skill in the art would not be able to practice the claimed invention because undue experimentation would be required.

13. Claims 19 and 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The instant specification does not contain a written description of the invention in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms or in sufficient detail that one skilled in the art can reasonably conclude that applicant had possession of the claimed invention at the time of filing.

Vas-Cath Inc. v. Mahurkar (CA FC) 19 USPQ2d 1111 (6/7/1991) clearly states that "written description" of invention required by first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 is separate and distinct from that paragraph's requirement of enabling disclosure, since description must do more than merely provide explanation of how to "make and use" invention; applicant must also convey, with reasonable clarity to those skilled in art, that applicant, as of filing date sought, was in possession of invention, with invention being, for purposes of "written description" inquiry, whatever is presently claimed. An applicant shows possession by describing the claimed invention with all its limitations using such descriptive means as words, structures, diagrams, and formulas. Also, description of an actual reduction to practice, or by showing the invention was "ready for patenting," or by describing distinguishing identifying characteristics sufficient to

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show that the applicant was in possession of the claimed invention at the time of filing.


The specification states that test compounds may be obtained using numerous approaches in combinatorial library methods known in the art including biological libraries, but does not guide or exemplify the isolation of and assaying of any biological library. There are no examples disclosed that conveys to one of skill in the art that the applicant was in possession of the claimed libraries. There is no actual reduction to practice, sufficient descriptive information, such as definitive structural features, complete detailed description of the function of claimed invention indicating that the library was indeed isolated, produced, and assayed for the uses disclosed. Thus, one skilled in the art would not recognize from the disclosure that the applicant was in possession of the claimed biological library or test compounds thereof.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Natalie A. Davis whose telephone number is 703-308-6410. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5:30 (every other Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Caputa PhD can be reached on 703-308-3995. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4315 for regular communications and 703-308-4556 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.

Natalie A. Davis, PhD
May 14, 2002


SHEELA HUFF
PRIMARY EXAMINER